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Lithuanian Academic Elite in 1922–1940: Aspects of Studies of Socio-Cultural Expression

Historiographical Study

SUMMARY

The aim of this study is to analyse the interwar research of the scientific, societal and cultural interaction process in contemporary historiography, to examine and identify the trends in personal contribution to culture and public education.

On the basis of the analysis it is stated that the historians of today attempt to analyse the ideological attitudes and the purposefulness of cultural expression of academic Lithuanian intelligentsia, which reflected the aspirations of the professorship to strengthen the Lithuanian national identity and national culture in the state, and linked the perspectives of self-consciousness of society members with the development of culture, which ought to have been based on the traditions of the Lithuanian nation, the perception of history, and on fostering of the Lithuanian language. As evidenced by research, some of the professorship was linking the ideological background of the formation of the Lithuanian cultural identity to Catholicism, while others – to the beginnings of the ancient pagan culture. Participation of researchers of higher educational institutions in the cultural life of

the First Republic of Lithuania was partly analysed in the monographs of science and art researchers of the recent years, as well as in the academic works on the history of literature, which expand the knowledge and evaluations of historiography on the formation of the Lithuanian national cultural identity during the years of state independence. New research reveals the concerns of the university scientists about the issues of funding of cultural institutions, preservation of cultural heritage and its dissemination.

The fact that historical significance of the cultural community attitude of scholars has gained little evaluation in synthetic or peer-reviewed university history publications, although that experience is relevant to today's practice of culture development, is evaluated critically. Cultural activities have helped to unite the inter-war Lithuanian academic community, to build its social relations, however, there is no comprehensive and full analysis and evaluation of formal and informal peculiarities of consolidation possibilities of researchers, and of the role of cultural and public education activities.

Key words: scientists, cultural expression, the First Republic of Lithuania, history of culture, historiography of science.